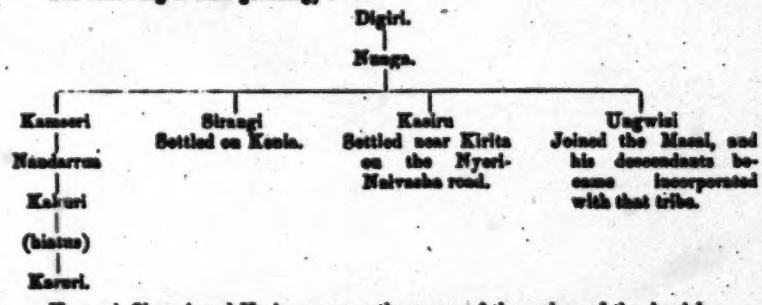
Notes on the Dorobo People and other Tribes; gathered from Chief Karuri and others. *By C. W. Hobley, C.M.G.* 78

101 The true Dorobo people are called Asi by the Kikuyu people and call themselves Aggiek (or Oggiek) or Ogiechne.

Mr. Hollis tells me that the Nandi call them Okiek (singular Okiet), the Masai Il-Torobo (singular Ol-Toroboni).

131 [648] 173 614 [769] They inhabited the whole of the East Africa highlands from Nandi to Kenia before the Masai invaded the country. The most important clan among the Aggiek is the Digiri (*see* MAN, 1903, 21), the name Digiri being that of their earliest known ancestor. Digiri, however, appears to have lived so long ago that all details about him are lost, and the first ancestor remembered by most is one Nunga, who was a very powerful person, and nearly all the Aggiek are said to trace their origin to this chief.

The following is their genealogy:—



61A [304] [191] Kameeri, Sirangi, and Kasiru are now the names of three clans of the Aggiek.

Before the Masai came none of the Aggiek circumcised and they all spoke one language. The totem of the Aggiek is the ant-bear, which is called Ungure, they do not eat carnivorous animals or birds of prey, but eat all other animals and birds.

[262] [173] [648] The Digiri have a distinct legend of the invasion of the Masai: they describe how one day a Digiri hunter on the Emoo Narok saw a great company of people coming from the north; the hunter was afraid and hid among the rocks, but he was seen,

11: Hobley G-5 (ca. 1900) 1906 FL6 Dorobo FL6

captured, and commandeered as guide to the party, and was ordered to show them the places where they could obtain water for their cattle. The people who came from the north were the ancestors of the *Burugo*, *Gekunyuki*, *Loitai*, and *Damat* Masai. 173 614 648

Mr. Hollis spells these as follows:—Il-purko, Il-kak-conyokio, 'L-oitai and Il-damat. [114]

Some generation later an invasion took place from the south. A people came from a district called Ereraguti in the direction of Nyanwezi country; these people were like Masai and were under one Ndaraguto, the son of Ndaramuroni. They fought with the Masai from the north and vanquished them. Ndaraguto was a clever leader, however, and he collected his beaten adversaries and welded them with his own people into the Masai nation. Before that time the Wanyamwezi occupied the whole of the Nandi-Lumbwa plateau but they were driven south by the great chief Ndaramuroni, or his son Ndaraguto. If this is true it might account for the remains of certain rude dams which are to be seen in some of the Nandi valleys; these were certainly not made by the Nandi, but probably by a people who understood irrigation.

The Kikuyu country was then unoccupied by that tribe, but was one of the great hunting grounds of the Dorobo, and contained many elephants, buffalo, wild pig, &c. In these days it is said the herds of buffalo far exceeded the present herds of cattle possessed by the Masai. The Kikuyu people migrated in from the south-east and gradually increased, cultivating shambas as they pushed north-west; one of the Kikuyu clans, the Mwizaga, came from as far south as Kilimanjaro—in fact, their name is possibly a corruption of Chaga. They are skilled at rain-making and other witchcraft, and are said to have some Masai blood in their veins. 194 [136]

On the Enasangishu or Uasin Gishu plateau, between Mount Elgon and Elgeyo, there are remains of a past race in the form of numerous ruined stone kraals, circular in shape. The Uasin Gishu people who formerly inhabited the plateau declare that they are the relics of a race called Mokwan (possibly the people were called Kirikwa, and the kraals Mokwan) who peopled that region previous to themselves. This is borne out by the legends of the Aggiek, who state that the people who inhabited that region before the Uasin Gishu were a long-haired people called Enjoe by the Kikuyu and Eboratta by the Masai. They were a pastoral tribe who had enormous herds of cattle with exceptionally long horns. They had far more cattle than any other tribe. They were, however, broken up by the Il-Purko, 'L-Aikipiak, and 'L-Oitai Masai, the branch of the Masai who entered from the north. According to Aggiek tradition they were not like other human beings, for when a child was born they bored a hole in its side; the wound healed but the hole remained, and they closed the hole with a wooden plug. When, however, they wanted to run they took out the plug. The form of circumcision practised by these people was to take off both knee caps in early youth. Be this as it may, the tradition of long hair and long-horned cattle possibly points to an offshoot of some Hamitic race from the north which made an unfortunate experiment of migration southwards. Such migration might turn out to be contemporaneous with the Hima invasion of Uganda. Soon after the destruction of this tribe by the Masai the looted cattle were nearly all swept off by cattle plague. 193 [194]

The Aggiek also have a curious tradition about a clever race of dwarfs called Mwalowai Chiana who inhabited this country in old times; they are said to have averaged only 2 feet in stature.

They also tell that they heard from their forefathers, long before Europeans were actually seen up country, that a white race (called Muchungu) existed in the world. Doubtless news of the white man's advent was passed on up country, from tribe to tribe, long before he was seen inland.

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